

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: March 28, 2011


From : Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of fee title on and over APN's 2561-007-010; 2561-007-012; 2561-007-007; 2401-032-008; 2561-033-002; 2561-033-003; 2562-004-011; 2562-005-003; 2562-005-004; 2562-005-006; 2562-005-007; 2401-032-003; 2401-032-005; 2401-032-006; 2401-032-007; 2561-009-005; 2561-009-006; 2561-009-010; 2561-009-012; 2561-009-016; 2545-018-004; 2546-010-009; 2561-007-013; 2545-018-002; 2546-010-005; 2561-007-016; 2561-007-018; 2561-007-019; 2561-007-021; 2561-007-022; 2562-004-008; 2401-034-003; 2561-009-007; 2561-009-013; 2561-009-015; 2561-033-001; 2562-004-006 (portion); 2562-004-014; 2562-006-005; 2562-006-008; 2562-003-012 (portion); 2562-003-015; and 2561-031-004, Verdugo Mountains, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of approximately 600 acres comprised of the above-listed Assessor Parcel Numbers, in the Verdugo Mountains.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The subject property is a portion of the Canyon Hills Project approved by the City of Los Angeles in 2004. The City of Los Angeles did not require that the property be dedicated to a public agency as a condition of approval, however a conservation easement was offered by the property owner, Whitebird Real Estate Holdings, LLC. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority authorized the acceptance of conservation easements over the parcels comprising the subject property on December 1, 2010. These easements were recorded in 2011. The owner of the property has now offered the property as a donation to the Conservancy.

The 600 plus acre donation is located in the Verdugo Mountains, just adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's 1,100-acre La Tuna Canyon Park, and the approximately 400-acre Majors Open Space Preserve, owned by the Fond Land Preservation Foundation. The property encompasses several unnamed tributaries of La Tuna Canyon Creek, and a portion of the creek itself. The property also contains chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat. Acceptance of the donation will help to preserve important viewshed in addition to significant watershed and ecological resources. Please see the attached map.

Some dumping issues from La Tuna Canyon Road are being addressed by both the property owner and members of the community with the support of City Councilmember Paul

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Krekorian. Barriers are being erected. In general, there are no other substantial maintenance issues on this property.